

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2011

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Nebraska Unemployment Rate Decreases From November to December

LINCOLN- The Nebraska Department of Labor announced today that Nebraska's preliminary seasonally adjusted state unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 of a percentage point from 4.6% to 4.4% in December 2010. The December 2009 unemployment rate was 4.6%

The national unemployment rate for December 2010 decreased to 9.4%. The December 2009 national unemployment rate was 9.9%.

Commissioner of Labor Catherine D. Lang said, "Trade, Transportation and Utilities, and Manufacturing grew over the month in large part because of steep rises in retail employment. Both of these increases are the largest for the month of December over the past decade and indicate strengthening in those sectors of the state's economy."

The three private industry sectors to experience job growth over the month were:

Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+2,148)
Manufacturing (+1,122)
Professional and Business Services (+459)

Labor Force Estimates - National (Seasonally Adjusted)						
	Dec-10	Nov-10	Dec-09	Nov-09	Changes Since	
					Nov-10	Dec-09
Unemployment Rate	9.4	9.8	9.9	9.9	-0.4	-0.5

Labor Force Estimates - Nebraska (Seasonally Adjusted)						
	Prelim	Revised			Changes Since	
	Dec-10	Nov-10	Dec-09	Nov-09	Nov-10	Dec-09
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	-0.2	-0.2
Labor Force	973,872	971,456	980,702	980,896	2,416	-6,830
<i>Unemployment</i>	43,201	44,393	44,754	45,422	-1,192	-1,553
<i>Employment</i>	930,671	927,063	935,948	935,474	3,608	-5,277

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Labor Force Estimates - Omaha MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)						
	Prelim	Revised			Changes Since	
	Dec-10	Nov-10	Dec-09	Nov-09	Nov-10	Dec-09
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.6	0.1	-0.2
Labor Force	446,284	444,777	447,195	450,194	1,507	-911
<i>Unemployment</i>	20,886	20,551	21,691	20,681	335	-805
<i>Employment</i>	425,398	424,226	425,504	429,513	1,172	-106

Labor Force Estimates - Lincoln MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)						
	Prelim	Revised			Changes Since	
	Dec-10	Nov-10	Dec-09	Nov-09	Nov-10	Dec-09
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.8	0.0	-0.4
Labor Force	166,677	165,259	167,252	168,119	1,418	-575
<i>Unemployment</i>	5,872	5,864	6,482	6,384	8	-610
<i>Employment</i>	160,805	159,395	160,770	161,735	1,410	35

Data is revised on a monthly basis. Data for previous years is benchmarked annually and is subject to change. The 2009 labor force data was benchmarked in 2010.

Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MC)	Counties included	Dec-10 (Preliminary)	Nov-10 (Revised)
Beatrice MC	Gage	4.7	5.0
Columbus MC	Platte	3.7	3.8
Fremont MC	Dodge	4.3	4.4
Grand Island MC	Hall, Howard, Merrick	3.9	3.8
Hastings MC	Adams, Clay	4.0	3.9
Kearney MC	Buffalo, Kearney	2.8	2.8
Lexington MC	Dawson, Gosper	4.8	4.6
Norfolk MC	Madison, Pierce, Stanton	3.7	3.6
North Platte MC	Lincoln, Logan, McPherson	3.7	3.7
Scotts Bluff MC	Scottsbluff, Banner	4.5	4.3
Red Willow SA (Small Labor Market Area)	Red Willow, Hitchcock	3.3	3.2

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BENCHMARKING:

The state's labor force data for 2009 and 2010 will be [benchmarked](#) in February and March. During the benchmark process, labor force estimates are revised to reflect updated input data and new Census Bureau population controls.

The annual benchmark process ensures the data is as accurate as possible in the ever changing conditions of the labor market. Benchmarking will delay the publication of the January data. The January 2011 unemployment rates release will be published on March 10th. The February 2011 data will be published on March 25th.

Prepared and distributed by Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL)
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